

growth in grace and increase of strength and earnest effort of our beloved Zion; for this we thank God and earnestly pray this blessing upon us in the days to come.

J. M. HOLLADAY, Chairman.

SPECIAL REPORT ON EVANGELISM.

Your Special Committee on Evangelism had placed in its hands the first annual report of your Permanent Committee on Evangelistic work together with certain overtures touching the work of the same.

Before reporting upon this specific matter assigned it, your Committee is constrained to speak a few words in regard to Evangelism itself.

Recognizing as we do that faith is not alone important and that the preservation and culture of the life begotten is likewise of the greatest concern; and recognizing furthermore, that about this, there is neither debate nor obscurity, we would nevertheless respectfully suggest that the Assembly call the attention of the Church to the need of such evangelistic effort as may arouse our people to a definite, united and importunate seeking after God for such an outpouring of His Spirit in our midst, as shall result in the conversion of far greater multitudes than are now being saved.

Among the many facts which give emphatic emphasis to the wisdom of such a quest we name but three.

1. In a marvelous manner in many lands God is displaying His power to save. Again and again, through recent years have our hearts been thrilled by receiving accounts of most gracious and unusual quickenings. When there is such "a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees," is it not time for us to bestir ourselves? When so many of our brethren in far severed and remote regions have been thrilled by the news they have received of what God has wrought in other places and have been kindled by such a desire for a like blessing, or that they could not rest until it came, shall we be content till same news has come, be content to leave ought undone, that may be done to prepare the way of the Lord before Him and make straight His paths that He may show Himself forth in our midst, also with glorious might?

2. As is manifest to all, we are today in the midst of a moral arousement. From every part of our own land comes assurance that our National Conscience is being quickened. On all sides there are indications of an indignant revolt against corporate corruption, civic and social unrighteousness and of resolute assaults upon many forms of entrenched and ancient evil.

But as we rejoice in all this, let us remember that a moral awakening may have permanency only, as it is accompanied by a spiritual awakening. It can be established only, as it is energized by a consciousness of God.

If its passion is to be chastened, its momentum directed and its energies sustained, there must be more than a mere turning away from the service of sin; there must be a devout and determined returning unto the service of the Lord.

The channels of our National life may be cleared, cleaned and deepened only as they are swept by a floodtide of grace.

3. Our day is notable again, because of the exceptional opportunities offered to, and the exhilarating determination manifested by the Church to go forth and accomplish her great commission. As never before since the earliest hours of the Christian Era has the Church been so well able and so seriously concerned to obey her Lord's last command. As never before are multitudes seeing and resolutely seeking to solve the problems connected with worldwide missions. As never before is the thought of conquest captivating the imagination of Christendom. But for this very reason, less there be those who discern not the times, are those who depend upon the energy of an idea, rather than the mighty constraint of a personal loyalty to Christ, we feel there is need of a gracious awakening. Only as things spiritual become of supreme importance in the common consciousness of the Church, will the high spiritual appeal of the missionary challenge, become generally effective. Only as the Church is genuinely revived will her members offer themselves and their possessions in a measure that is adequate.

If there can but be born within us a great passion for souls, this passion will lead us to a quest and this quest to a conquest.

Furthermore, we greatly need such a God giving quickening in the home Church, because when such revival fires are already blazing in Korea, China, India, and throughout the East, it will not do to send forth as missionaries men whose own souls are not aglow. At a time like this, our missionaries more than ever need to be men of heart heat as well as of head. Only thus, as God revives us, shall we be able to find enough men divinely thrust forth into our pulpits and our mission fields at home and abroad; who, forged in the flames of such a Pentecostal awakening, will be warm enough, as well as wise enough, to win a world for Christ.

In the face of these and many other such

facts—your Committee is profoundly impressed with the need of our churches doing whatever it may be able, under God, to hasten the coming of a more glorious day of grace. Therefore we recommend,

1. That this Assembly call upon our pastors and people to give themselves to prayer that God may in His Sovereign Grace visit our home land with a great awakening.

2. That as a means of deepening a concern and of lending assistance along evangelistic lines the Permanent Committee of Evangelistic Work, be continued and placed upon the same footing with the other Permanent Committees of the Assembly, as an agency for gathering information, circulating literature and giving such counsel and assistance in every part of the church, as may be sought from them.

3. That the Committee be commended for the diligent, earnest and intelligent manner in which it has done its work, and that in view of the many independent evangelistic agencies now operating within our bounds that the Assembly recommend to our members the offices of this our own Evangelistic Committee and commend it to their prayer, co-operation and support.

4. That in view of a possible world-wide and concerted Evangelistic movement among the various Presbyterian bodies, which has been reported to us by our Permanent Committee, we recommend in accordance with their suggestion that they be authorized to appoint such committees as they may find expedient to confer with similar committees from other Presbyterian bodies and that they submit to the next Assembly such suggestions in regard to this matter as may seem to them wise.

5. That the Assembly furthermore authorize the committee to keep in as close correspondence with the Presbyteries through Presbyterial representatives, or otherwise as possible and that all Presbyterial representatives be urged to diligence.

6. That the Permanent Committee be authorized to secure money for its expenses not exceeding \$1,000 per year.

7. That the following be members of the Permanent Committee of Evangelism for the ensuing year:

Rev. C. R. Nisbet, Chairman,
Rev. A. B. Curry, D. D.,
Rev. Wm. N. Anderson, D. D.,
Rev. C. R. Hemphill, D. D.,
Rev. Geo. H. Cornelison, Jr., D. D.,
Mr. W. H. Raymond, Nashville, Tenn.,
Mr. C. C. Gilbert, Nashville, Tenn.

8. That the committee be empowered to elect a general secretary and to call ministers to be Assembly evangelists, provided they can see their way clear to do so without involving the Assembly in financial obligations.

Respectfully submitted,
RICHARD ORME FLINN,
Chairman.

Dr. A. M. Fraser concurs in all save the fourth recommendation.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION AND RELIEF.

Your committee on Ministerial Education and Relief, begs leave to submit the following report:

We can not too highly commend the diligence of our faithful secretary. Besides discharging well the routine duties of his office, he has gathered information that is of great use to the Church; has had published and sent out much helpful literature, touching the claims of the ministry; and has presented to thousands of boys and young men the call to the ministry.

We would also commend the Executive Committee for its economy in the administration of the business of the committee. Its minutes are in our hands and we find them well and neatly kept.

As to Ministerial Education.

We rejoice that the report shows 422 candidates, being an increase of forty-seven over the year before, and an increase of eighty over two years before. But our need is still very great. For while in 1894 we had one candidate to every 447 of our members, in 1908 we had only one candidate to every 716 of our members.

We rejoice also in increased contributions. The gift to the cause was \$1776.00 more than the previous year. But if the work is to be maintained and more candidates are secured, this year must show a very marked increase in our gifts to this cause.

With our rejoicing comes sorrow that 11 Presbyteries with 22,240 communicants, report no candidate for the ministry, and that 1546 of our churches, being almost half, took no collection for this vital cause.

We respectfully recommend:

1. That the parents in our homes, the officers and teachers in our Sunday schools, the Pastors and Elders in our Churches and our Christian Professors in the schools and colleges within our bounds, be urged to earnest prayer and faithful effort to secure an increase in the number of our candidates for the ministry.

2. That on the recommendation of our Presbyteries, aid be given to young men

studying medicine with a view to service in our Foreign Mission Field, such aid to be given only while in the medical schools, and to be in the form of loans which shall be cancelled by this service in the foreign field.

3. That our Presbyteries be urged to exercise due and proper care in the selection of colleges that our candidates are permitted to attend, especially avoiding those in which the chair of philosophy is filled by men of rationalistic views.

4. We urge our Secretary our Seminary Professors and Seminary students and pastors to continue their good work in presenting the claims of the Gospel ministry to the young men in our State institutions, and that their work may be most effective, and urge our Synods to make the fullest possible provision for the spiritual interest of and pastoral oversight on the 2179 young men from Presbyterian homes who are students in their State institutions.

5. Recognizing that the vast majority of our candidates come from the colleges under our direct ecclesiastical control, and feeling that every effort should be put forth at this time, not only to prevent any decrease, but to secure an increase in the number of our candidates, the Assembly views with alarm all movements looking to a separation of our colleges from church control and protects against the very beginning of such movements.

6. That we adopt the blank for "Application to be received under care of Presbytery" as suggested by the Executive Committee, and direct that they be used by our Presbyteries.

7. That our Church undertake to raise at least \$40,000.00 for this vital cause.

8. That the Assembly re-elect as members of the committee on Ministerial Education and Relief for the next three years:

Rev. J. S. Lyons, D. D.,
Rev. W. H. Miley, D. D.,
Rev. J. W. Tyler,
Mr. Brainerd Lemon,

whose terms expire at this meeting of the Assembly.

AS TO MINISTERIAL RELIEF.

We rejoice that the blessing of God has rested upon this work. An increase of \$3,583 in gifts marks the year's work. The blessings of the income from the Endowment Fund are beginning to be felt. But with all this, what we do for our noble beneficiaries is pitifully inadequate.

We recommend:

1. That the Church undertakes to raise during the year the sum of \$50,000.00.

2. That our ruling elders be requested to present this cause to each church in our bounds during this year; and the Presbyterial Chairman be requested to arrange for such a presentation of the cause.

3. There has been placed in the hands of your committee an overture from the Presbytery of Chesapeake, touching the organization of a "Sustentation Fund" similar to that recently put into operation by the Northern Church.

Your committee would respectfully report that our Secretary of Ministerial Relief has placed in our hands papers giving a full description of the said "Sustentation Fund," together with letters from prominent persons telling of the practical workings of same.

After a careful examination of these, together with a study of the history of the old "Relief Fund for Widows and disabled Ministers" of our own church begun in 1870 and discontinued in 1890, your committee would respectfully recommend that the overture be answered in the negative.

4. That the Endowment Fund be kept before our people, and that they be especially asked to remember it in their wills.

THE INVINCIBLE TRUTH.

Collins, the learned infidel, once met a plain farmer on his way to church, and asked him where he was going. "To church, sir," was the reply. "What to do there?" "To worship God." "Pray, then, whether is your God a great or a little God?" "He is both, sir." "How can He be both?" "He is so great, sir, that the heaven of heavens can not contain Him, and so little that He can dwell in my heart." By his own confession Collins declared that this simple answer had more effect on his mind than all the volumes that had been written against Him. The reason was that that simple answer contained the invincible truth. God is great, yet if need be, He would focus every element of that greatness to a single point for the rescue of any soul that trusts in Him.